



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION
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MHCC 12-006
Experience of Care Surveys for Maryland Nursing Homes
Questions and Responses

Question

Sec. 3.2.4 (pg. 16) – Is there a preference on the part of the MHCC for surveying the universe of sample units or for conducting a probability sample? Some published reports on survey findings seem to suggest the former. If a probability sample is acceptable, what would MHCC consider to be the desired level of precision of the sample, e.g., +/- X %, with a 95 percent confidence interval?

Response:

In past surveys we have used a census sample and have considered sampling only for large nursing homes. Of the 230+ Maryland nursing homes, there are approximately 16 with 200 or more beds and only 4 with 300 or more beds. However, survey participants are based on eligible residents. If sampling is proposed in these limited situations, we would require 95% confidence plus or minus 10%. You must fully describe in your proposal the sampling procedures.

Question

Sec. 3.2.5 (pg. 17) – If the effective date of the contract is 1/1/2012, what are the expected start dates of the (1) family/RP survey and (2) the resident survey in 2012? Work is expected to commence as soon as an award is made. What are the expected completion dates of each of these surveys?

Response

Time frames are identified in Section 3.3 “Key Deliverables” pages 24-25, the end date for a file to be provided for Medicaid Pay for Performance is June 15 with other reports to follow in 2-3 weeks.

Question

Will the same survey cycle be maintained in each of the subsequent project years?

Response:

Not necessarily, we need to determine the ideal survey cycle.

Question

Sec. 3.2.9.7 (pg. 21-22) – The RFP states that any software used in the course of the contract shall be deemed to be owned by MHCC. Can we assume that software currently owned and utilized by the contractor prior to the award is not subject to this provision?

Response:

It states “collected or prepared....in the course of performing”.

Question

Sec. 3.9.2 (pg. 31) – The RFP mentions that the contractor must provide a problem escalation procedure no less than 10 days prior to the beginning of the contract. Do you want this document before the start of the contract?

Response:

This plan will be required only of the winning vendor.

Question:

Sec. 3.2 (pg. 13) – The RFP mentions that surveys might start in calendar year 2011. How do you reconcile this with the statement that the effective date of this contract will be on or around 1/1/2012?

Response:

The work described in the scope of work will start in calendar year 2012

Question:

We understand that a contract was awarded in 2010 to conduct Experience of Care Surveys for Maryland Nursing Homes. The effective date of the contract was 7/1/2010-6/30/2013, with an option year until 6/30/2014. Since this current procurement seems to be virtually identical to the previous contract, is this superseding the previous contract? If so, what accounts for this contractual change? Is the previous contractor precluded from bidding this procurement?

Response:

The MHCC has chosen to re-bid the contract. No one is precluded from submitting a bid.